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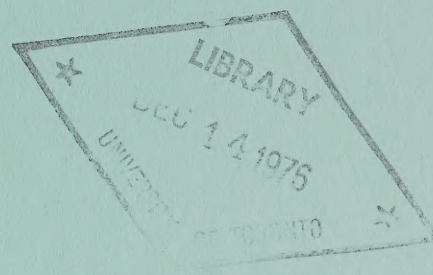
ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

Government
Publications

OPEN MEETING WITH LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

APRIL 19, 1975

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ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES

5-0061

MEETING

OPEN MEETING WITH LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

LOCATION

Lakehead University

DATE AND TIME

April 19, 1975

9:30 a.m.

5-0062

PRESENT

OCUA MEMBERS

J. S. Dupré

M. A. B. Bush

W. A. Goyan

A. D. D'Iorio

A. L. McCallion

P. D. Fleck

J. F. Mustard

J. D. Fisher

R. P. Riffin

R. Gerstein

Ronald S. Ritchie

L. Good

H. H. Walker

OCUA STAFF

J. P. Venton

Executive Secretary

N. E. Simmons

Associate Secretary

DELEGATION FROM LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

Dr. A. D. Booth
President

Mr. E. Belton
Chief Librarian

Dr. S. Walker
Chairman, Senate Graduate
Studies Committee

Dr. H. S. Braun
Dean, Faculty of
University Schools

Dr. J. T. Angus
Dean
Faculty of Education

Dr. W. T. Melnyk
Dean
Faculty of Arts

Mr. B. G. Mason
Vice-President (Administration)

Mr. G. H. Thompson
Vice-President (Finance)

Dr. C. F. Kent
President, Lakehead
University Faculty Association

Mr. J. Kerr
Dean of Students

Dr. F. Lone
Member, Lakehead
University Board of Governors

Mr. W. J. McDonnell
Registrar

Dr. W. S. Morris
Chairman
Department of Philosophy

Mr. J. Elwert
Member, Lakehead
University Board of Governors

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The President opened the hearing by reviewing areas of concern to Lakehead University which had been dealt with in the brief. He noted that Lakehead would forward to Council a summary of the Lakin Brief concerning the engineering diploma programme. On the issue of enrolment, Dr. Booth suggested that OUAC should arbitrarily assign students among universities in order to ensure that small institutions could be filled to capacity and that all universities received the same mix of good students. He also requested OCUA direction concerning identification of key university faculties and their minimum sizes.

Professor Kent of the Faculty Association was then invited to address Council concerning the Faculty Association brief which had been circulated previously. He noted that while Lakehead University had not formalized an academic plan, consensus on the objectives of the University had been demonstrated. He noted that if OCUA could assure adequate financial support to maintain Lakehead as a complete university, the institution would take care of furnishing the numbers of faculty and students required to maintain core areas.

Mr. Xavier Michon, Director of the Thunder Bay Indian Fellowship presented a brief on behalf of the native people of Northwestern Ontario concerning accessibility to university programmes.

Subsequent discussion focused on the following:

FORMULA REVISION

Lakehead's primary concern with regard to formula revision centred on the need to maintain core faculties in order to ensure the long term stability and quality of the University. It was

stressed that while the University wished to respond to shifting student interests and demands, to do so now would require dismissing faculty in key subject areas. Council was informed that the Faculty of Arts was attempting to define core departmental size in terms of both faculty and students. The study was expected to be completed by September, and would likely identify 15-16 core subjects in the Arts, Sciences, and Social Sciences excluding professional programmes. The delegation pointed out that certain disciplines had experienced severe reductions in their faculty complements, an example being the Department of Philosophy with only four faculty remaining. Using this example as a basis, it was estimated that the cost of maintenance of a core subject area would amount to \$80,000 (salaries) plus administrative costs.

It was noted that although OUAC reported a 23% increase in applications (all choices) to Lakehead for next year, this figure, because of the multiple choice provision, did not necessarily indicate a growth in the number of actual applicants.

In Forestry, Engineering, Nursing and Biology enrolment ceilings had been established mainly in response to physical facility limitations. Hence, the delegation noted that complete enrolment desensitization of the formula would not necessarily suit Lakehead because these and other programmes could not be expanded without full funding of enrolment growth.

It was also pointed out that 60-70% of students at Lakehead originated in Northwestern Ontario and that the remainder were attracted primarily by the University's size. The delegation agreed that it would be beneficial to Lakehead and other small universities if the sizes of the undergraduate student bodies in Arts and Science at the four large universities were frozen, resulting in a re-distribution of undergraduates throughout the

system. The delegation strongly endorsed the view that the number of students in the system need not be reduced to achieve greater quality and that adequate funds should be provided for quality improvement.

5-0065

TUITION FEES

In elaboration of the position taken in the University's brief, the delegation stressed that the Board of Governors was particularly concerned that its legal power to set fees was being circumvented by the current financing mechanism.

5-0066

ACCESSIBILITY

(i) Native Students

A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the needs of the Native population for post-secondary education and the barriers to accessibility for this group. At Lakehead the Faculty of Education was developing a programme in conjunction with the Ministry of Education through which Indian people would be trained to teach Indian students.

Also under investigation was the establishment of an Indian Cultural and Educational Centre. Details of this project had not been fully explored but it was expected that interaction with educational institutions would be handled on a contractual basis. It was noted that before most Native students could be expected to succeed in a university environment they would require an intermediate year similar to the University of Toronto's transitional year; however, formula funds were not expected to be made available for such programmes.

Barriers to Native accessibility were considered to fall into three groupings: financial, cultural and academic. It was pointed out that Treaty Indians were

able to obtain funding through the Department of Indian Affairs once they had been accepted into university programmes but that Metis and non-status Indians were not eligible for special support. Most students receiving Indian Affairs funds entered universities under mature student clauses, but few provisions existed for admission of disadvantaged Native students in the 18 to 24 age group. Council learned that travelling and personal expenses were difficult for these students to surmount. Stressed also was the cultural shock experienced by students when they moved from a Reserve into a middle class urban setting. Native students had little opportunity for practical exposure to academic methodology prior to university entrance.

It was noted that while 10% of the region's population was Native, this group formed less than 1% of the Lakehead enrolment. The Cultural and Educational Centre referred to above would be expected to increase the number of Native students at Lakehead.

(ii). Admission Tests

The President endorsed a suggestion that system-wide tests be administered by universities to screen applicants who applied from the secondary school stream. He felt that while no university would admit students who did not demonstrate potential for success, the right to make subjective appraisals of applicant potential must be protected. It was stressed that open accessibility without provisions for adequate preparation would be a disservice to the students so admitted.

(iii) Admissions to Professional Schools

The delegation felt that Lakehead standards were

accepted at other universities. It was noted that students apparently transferred to other universities following completion of the first year at Lakehead in hopes of having a better chance of subsequent admission into professional schools.

(iv) Ministerial Reference on Admissions and Accessibility

Various members of the delegation felt that the funding limitations proposed in the Minister's letter of February 17, 1975 prejudged the findings of the study proposed in the same letter. Such funding limitations it was suggested would remove Senate responsibility to determine admission standards. The delegation also expressed confusion as to who would be involved in the development of the various investigations. Council confirmed that it would liaise closely with universities in its study.

(v) General

It was noted that potential students in the Kenora and Dryden areas were often attracted to the University of Manitoba where tuition fees were between \$150 and \$250 lower than at Lakehead. In response to a query Council learned that 'deferred credits' obtained by high school students through Lakehead University were not portable to other institutions.

5-0067

STUDENT SUPPORT

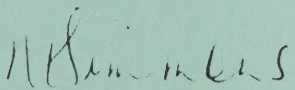
With regard to OSAP, reservations were expressed concerning the level of allowances which it was felt did not keep pace with inflation. The delegation suggested that the regulations concerning the age of independence of students were not in tune with contemporary society.

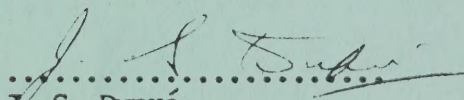
Council learned that Lakehead had filled its institutional quota of 10 Ontario Graduate Scholarships but information was not available as to whether any students at Lakehead had received OGS's in the general competition.

5-0068

GRADUATE PROGRAMME APPRAISALS

Conflicting opinions were expressed concerning the value of the current appraisals mechanism. The President felt that assessments were a waste of time, money and effort and that an equally good indicator would be the opinion of external examiners of students who had completed graduate programmes. On the other hand it was noted that the appraisals system had unilaterally served to improve programmes which has been examined.


.....
N. E. Simmons
Associate Secretary


.....
J. S. Dupré
Chairman

